(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Ministry of Rural Development has been impressing upon the States to implement the Scheme more effectively and in accordance with the guidelines. In order to improve the implementation of the Schemes and to ensure better delivery of the benefits to the poor, a four pronged strategy (i) Creation of Awareness about the Schemes, (ii) Transparency, (iii) People's Partnership and (iv) Accountability—Social Audit through Gram Sabhas has been evolved.

New system to ascertain BPL

2190. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether to ascertain the actual people living below the poverty line in various parts of the country, a radical score-based ranking system of each household indicating their quality of life has been mooted;

(b) if so, whether this was the recommendation made by the expert committee constituted by the Rural Development Ministry;

(c) if so, what are the other recommendations made by the Committee; and

(d) what are the steps being considered to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) the other recommendations of the Expert Group include, *inter alia*, adoption of Socio-economic indicators for identification, allowing flexibility to the States to decide the Cut-off Scores within the overall poverty ratio and approval of the BPL list by the Gram Sabha.

(d) The Government has accepted most of the recommendations and has advised all the States and Union territories to initiate action to conduct BPL Census for identification of 'poor' and 'non-poor' in the rural areas.